

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00455 041347Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 IO-13 /096 W  
-----101534 050517Z /62

R 310430Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3161  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

CONFIDENTIAL PORT MORESBY 0455

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, PP, CH, UR  
SUBJ: ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC AND SOVIET EMBASSIES

REF: PORT MORESBY 331

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN OLEWALE ANNOUNCED MARCH 30 THAT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION HAD BEEN INVITED TO ESTABLISH RESIDENT EMBASSIES IN PORT MORESBY. SOME IN GOVERNMENT ARE STILL OPPOSING THE MOVE, WHICH APPARENTLY HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY CABINET, AND WHICH BEING FOUGHT TENACIOUSLY BY AUSTRALIA. END SUMMARY.

2. AT A MARCH 30 PRESS CONFERENCE FONMIN OLEWALE ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRC AND USSR HAD BEEN INVITED TO ESTABLISH RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN PNG, ENDING A LONG-STANDING GPNG POLICY TO EXCLUDE COMMUNIST REPRESENTATION. OLEWALE SAID  
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PNG COULD BENEFIT FROM CLOSER RELATIONS AND SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH CHINESE AID, CITING AID TO TANZANIA AS AN EXAMPLE. "WE CAN AVOID THE EXPERIENCE OF RECIPIENT STATES IN AFRICA IF OUR LEADERS ARE NOT CROOKED", HE SAID.

3. A MEDIA REP, APPARENTLY AWARE OF STRONG AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION TO THE MOVE, ASKED OLEWALE IF HE ANTICIPATED

OPPOSITION FROM REGIONAL NEIGHBORS. THE MINISTER REPLIED POINTEDLY, "PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS AN INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN COUNTRY. NEITHER AUSTRALIA NOR ANYBODY ELSE CONTROLS OUR FOREIGN POLICY."

4. THIS ISSUE MAY STILL HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH ALIVE RIGHT UP TO OLEWALE'S ANNOUNCEMENT. THE AMBASSADOR LEARNED THAT THE AUSTRALIANS WERE PLANNING TO PRESENT A PAPER TO GPNG OUTLINING POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES AND THREATENING TO SLOW ITS FLOW OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO A TRICKLE IF GPNG PERSISTED. ALSO, OLEWALE MAY HAVE GOTTEN OUT IN FRONT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. PRIME MINISTER SOMARE REPORTEDLY WAS UNAWARE OF OLEWALE'S DECISION UNTIL INFORMED BY A MEMBER OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. PNG DEFENCE FORCE COMMANDER DIRO TOLD AN EMBOFF MARCH 30 THAT HE AND MANY OTHERS WERE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED, THAT THE MATTER HAD NOT YET GONE TO CABINET AND THAT HE BELIEVED OLEWALE WOULD BE OVERRULED. HOWEVER, THIS MAY HAVE BEEN WISHFUL THINKING. ONCE OLEWALE ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN INVITED TO ESTABLISH MISSIONS, A REVERSAL WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO THE GOVERNMENT AND WOULD PUT OLEWALE IN AN UNTENABLE POSITION.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EMBASSIES, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Markings:**  
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